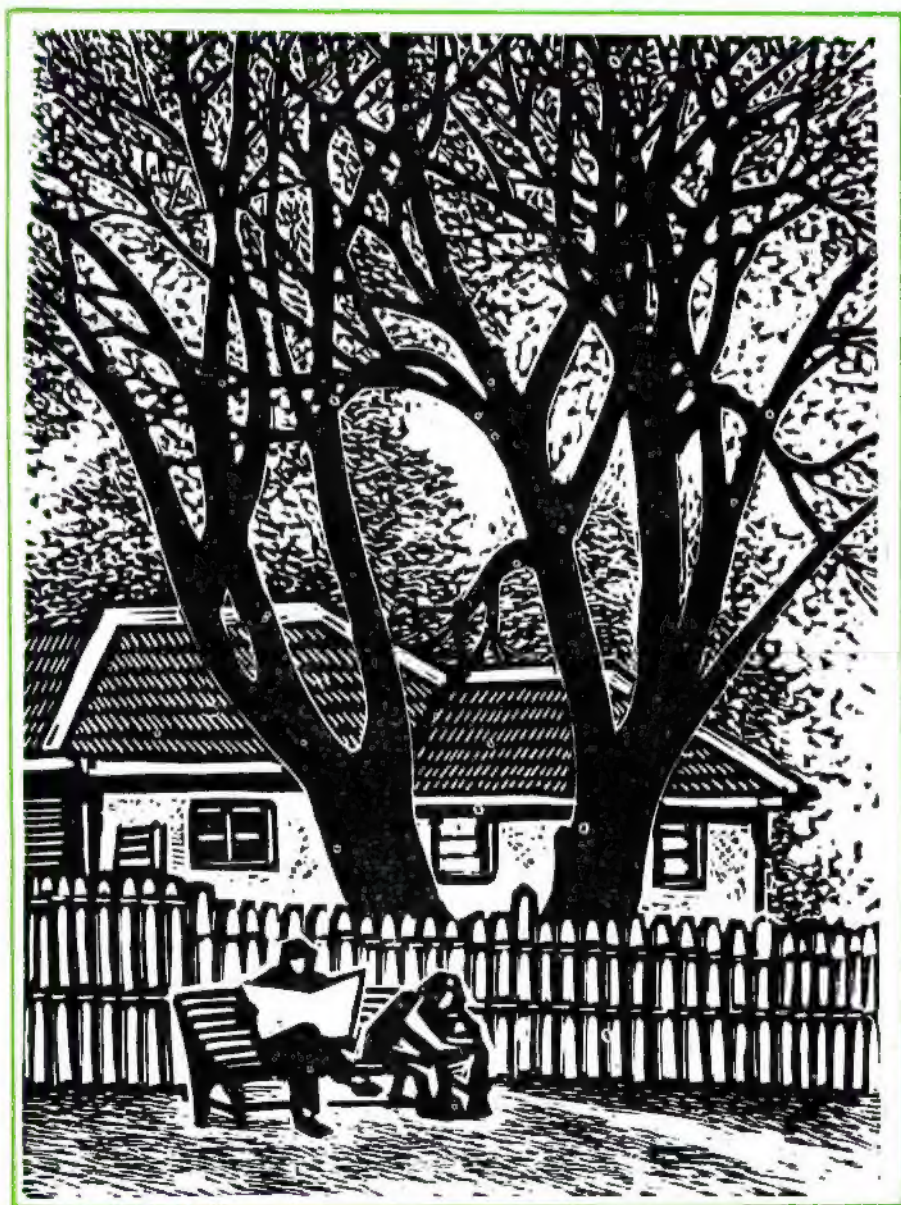


No. 20 May 18, 1981

# BEIJING REVIEW

北京周報

A CHINESE WEEKLY  
OF  
NEWS AND VIEWS



The Chinese Press:  
Past and Present

●  
Halting Price Hikes

●  
Tension on the  
Korean Peninsula



## HIGHLIGHTS OF THE WEEK

### Chinese Newspapers

A general survey of this aspect of the mass media in China — its long history, present-day functions and characteristics. With an annual circulation of some 14 billion copies, Chinese newspapers not only keep people abreast of events, but play an important role in promoting socialist democracy (pp. 23-29).

### Soong Ching Ling on Sino-Canadian Friendship

The eminent Chinese statesman and woman leader recalls the longstanding friendship between the two peoples and stresses the importance of international solidarity in the face of aggression and expansion by hegemonism (pp. 15-16).

### Stabilizing Prices

In an exclusive interview with a *Beijing Review* correspondent, the Director of the

National Price Bureau describes how China is fighting rising prices — a problem of world-wide concern (pp. 21-22).

### The Namibia Question

A review of China's position on this issue in contradistinction to that of the West, criticizing the United States in particular for its support of South Africa (pp. 12-13).

### Tension on the Korean Peninsula

*Renmin Ribao* commentary on the escalation of tensions in Korea as a result of a new U.S. pledge to supply Chun Du Hwan with more sophisticated weapons (p. 10).

### Solidarity With the Third World

Beijing's warm reception of distinguished guests from Colombia, Papua New Guinea, Morocco and Iraq underscores the importance of third world

solidarity in China's foreign policy (pp. 8-9).

### Hanoi's Offensive Flops

The recent complete liberation of the Melai Mountain District and two other areas by the armed forces of Democratic Kampuchea points to the failure of the Vietnamese dry-season offensive (pp. 10-11).

### Beijing Opera

A review of two new books in English which aid people's appreciation of this traditional form of Chinese art (pp. 30-31).



After retirement.

Woodcut by Wang Qi

## BEIJING REVIEW

北京周报

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## Focus of Soviet Strategy

**Has the Soviet Union shifted the focus of its strategy to Asia after its invasion of Afghanistan and the Vietnamese occupation of Kampuchea with Soviet support?**

No, I don't think so.

The focus of Soviet strategy is still in Europe. Its main direction of attack is in the south.

The Soviet Union has deployed three-fourths of its armed forces with the best equipment in Europe where they are kept in a state of combat readiness. And it is in Europe where they are most capable of launching a large-scale surprise attack. Only by occupying Europe which possesses greater economic, political and military strength can the Soviet Union achieve its ambition of dominating the world. It is true that the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan and its support for Viet Nam's occupation of Kampuchea as well as its increased military presence in the West Pacific menace both China and Japan. But, more important, these are moves intended to support and co-ordinate with deployments on the western front, and do not constitute a shifting of the focus of its strategy.

The possibilities of a Soviet frontal attack on Europe are small. It aims, rather, at out-flanking Europe in the east by directing its spearhead against South Asia and the Gulf area which are strategically important but weak in defence.

The Soviet Union is aware that it would be too costly to

launch a frontal attack on Europe. That is why it uses "detente" as a ploy while maintaining a strong military presence in Europe and energetically pushing southward to hit at the "soft belly." Kampuchea and Afghanistan are only staging posts for the Soviets in their southward thrust to the Persian Gulf, the Indian Ocean and the Pacific to realize the fond dreams of the old tsars.

The invasion of Afghanistan has brought them 500 kilometres nearer to the Strait of Hormuz. In supporting Viet Nam's aggression and occupation of Kampuchea, the Soviets now have Cam Ranh Bay and Da Nang as their military bases, thereby enabling the Soviet Pacific Fleet to extend its area of activity several thousand miles to the south.

The invasion of Afghanistan is a very important move by the Soviet Union in its bid to control the Strait of Hormuz in the west and the Strait of Malacca in the east. If the Soviet Union should accomplish its plan, it would then be able

to link up the Middle East, the Persian Gulf, the Indian Ocean and Southeast Asia and have the oil resources under its thumb. By cutting the routes of oil supplies, which are vital to the Western countries, the Soviet Union would be in a very advantageous strategic position and bring dire consequences to Western Europe, Japan and the United States.

The Soviet Union has wild ambitions to dominate the world, but it also faces great difficulties. Economically, for instance, it spends about 8 million U.S. dollars to support Cuba and 6 million dollars to support Viet Nam every day. To keep its 100,000 troops in Afghanistan is even more costly. In every country it invades, the people rise in resistance. This means an additional burden on its back.

Countries and peoples fighting against hegemonism should unite and carry out a joint struggle against the Soviet hegemonists. This will upset their plans of aggression and thwart their ambition of dominating the world.

— *International Editor*  
Mu Youlin

## Concerning Advertisements

**Commercial advertisements have appeared in China's mass media and on the streets. Are they necessary for socialism?**

Commercial advertisements are inseparable from a commodity economy. Since there are commodity production and markets in the socialist economy, it is natural that there are advertisements.

Owing to the influence of "Leftist" thinking, the existence of commodity economy was ignored and advertisements were banned. Now under the unified guidance of the state plan, the regulating role of the market has been brought into play over the past two years. With the market enlivened, due attention is given to advertising which plays an intermediary



## LETTERS

### Wiping Out the Deficit

Thank you for the article "Answering Our Readers: Why Is China Striving to Wipe Out Its Deficit?" (No. 15, 1981.) It was very informative and I agreed with its points that it is often the labouring people, active and retired, who suffer most from inflation and that inflation is not a useful mechanism for a developing socialist nation.

The article did not mention trade deficits or foreign indebtedness. Should they be considered as essentially similar to a government deficit or do they pose different problems? How should they be treated?

**Robert J. Donovan**  
San Francisco, U.S.A.

### Living Conditions of the Working Class in Capitalist Countries

One of the very fine features of *Beijing Review* nowadays is the coverage given to discussions in China on various economic, political and theoretical problems. One such important contribution was the article in No. 14 on the living conditions of the working class in the developed capitalist countries.

According to the "Editor's Note" it has already been pointed out that the two authors "could have

paid more attention to the exploitation of the third world," to which I wholeheartedly subscribe,

Also, I think, they might have taken into consideration the fact that the enormous increase in productivity in all fields of production in the developed capitalist countries over the past few decades has made fully possible a simultaneous rise of the rate of exploitation and of the material well-being of those thus exploited.

In my opinion, however, the merits of the article by far outweigh its various shortcomings. In a clean break with the viewpoints prevailing during the "cultural revolution," it has put the debate on the subject firmly on the solid ground of these two basic and incontestable facts:

1. The living standard of the working class of the developed capitalist countries has been on the rise, and

2. This development has seriously affected the workers' movement in these countries.

To me, as a West European, this is the all-important thing, and I am eagerly looking forward to reading further contributions to this discussion.

**Gottfred Appel**  
Svendborg, Denmark

### Trends in Chinese Jurisprudence

As a researcher of Chinese law, I was very interested in reading your succinctly written article

"Trends in Chinese Jurisprudence" in issue No. 14.

The article dealt with important problems, such as "continuity of law," "all citizens are equal before the law," "the relationship between the law and the Party and government organs," "the theory about what constitutes a crime," "the presumption of innocence" and "civil and economic laws."

But I feel that some controversy still exists about these questions. Basically there are two viewpoints which are being studied and so far no conclusion has been reached to the heated debate over them in Chinese law circles.

I have another question: Can stipulations about inheritance be found in the civil law or in other legal codes? The present marriage law contains some articles about inheritance from a father to a son, but it is not in accordance with the legal system.

**Masao Fukushima**  
Tokyo, Japan

The principle of the presumption of innocence developed as a safeguard of the human rights of the accused in criminal suits. It is not the product of an idealist theory of cognition. The accused will be treated as innocent if no decisive facts can be brought forward to prove his guilt. In this way cases based on wrong charges can be dropped. During the hearings, the suspects and accused are not only persons who are being investigated but also litigants. Otherwise, the human rights of the accused cannot be guaranteed. Therefore, the presumption of innocence should be a basic principle in criminal procedures.

**Osamu Takamizawa**  
Tokyo, Japan

### Humour

The column "Humour in China" may not have much of an impact in Europe. Perhaps different understandings of humour exist between China and Europe.

**Marino PAU**  
Niederanven, Luxembourg

I extend my congratulations on your "Humour in China." It gives readers a fresh feeling to look at this column after intensely reading the rest of the magazine.

**Jean-Claude Blouin**  
Québec, Canada

role between production and marketing, helps expand the interflow of commodities, promotes production and gives guidance to the consumers.

In the socialist economy, regulation through planning plays the main role while advertisements play a very limited part. Socialist enterprises are responsible to the people, so advertisements should be true and reliable. In this respect, they are essentially different from advertisements in the capitalist coun-

tries which overwhelm the media.

The rapid development of advertising in the past few years reflects in some measure the flourishing market in China. But there are some drawbacks too. For instance, some of the statements are exaggerated, the ads take up too much space in the newspapers and disrupt TV broadcasts. This has aroused discontent among the people and should therefore be improved.

—Economic Editor Jin Qi



## POLITICAL

## May 4th Movement Commemorated

May is often referred to as "Red May" in China. Apart from May Day, there are several other commemorative days in this month. One of them is the May 4th Youth Day.

The May 4th Movement was an anti-imperialist and anti-feudal patriotic movement launched by progressive students in 1919. It marked a turning point in Chinese history and has had a tremendous impact on the nation's political, ideological and cultural affairs. Meetings were held this year by the young people in many cities to commemorate this day.

Young people account for 200 million or about one-fifth of the nation's population. The overwhelming majority of them are patriotic and are anxious to do their bit for the four modernizations. They are eager to learn and the least conservative in thinking, energetic and ingenious. Carrying forward the tradition of the May 4th Movement, they have raised the slogans "Unite to bring about the resurgence of the Chinese

nation" and "Beginning from now, beginning from myself."

An aftereffect of the 10 tumultuous years of the "cultural revolution" is that some young people lack a correct understanding of the Chinese revolution and the fundamental principles of Marxism-Leninism. To educate the young and help them acquire a correct understanding of these questions, therefore, made up the main contents of the commemorative activities this year.

### **Demands on the Young People.**

At a forum of advanced youths from all over the country, held in Zhongnanhai which is the seat of the C.P.C. Central Committee, Peng Chong who is a Secretary of the Secretariat of the C.P.C. Central Committee made the following points:

— Love the motherland. This, he said, means loving the motherland which persists in taking the socialist road and doing one's best to build it into a modernized socialist power. He said that, in order to give play to their patriotic spirit, the young people must have a good knowledge of the history of our nation, especially China's modern history. They should know the historic achievements made by the Chinese Communist Party in leading the people

in the revolution and construction over the past 60 years and the rich experiences gained in the 31 years since the founding of New China. In this way they will come to know the truth that "without the Communist Party there can be no New China" and that "only socialism can save China." Everyone should take the actual conditions of our country into consideration and follow China's own road of modernization.

— The young people should not only study and master knowledge, including science and technology, they should have communist ideals, morals and spirit. A large number of heroic personages working in various fields are needed to accomplish the four modernizations. The advanced youths should set the example and help other young people give play to the communist spirit.

— Leading cadres at various levels should show concern for the children and youngsters and help them solve whatever difficulties they may have.

**Commemorative Activities.** On May 4, a meeting attended by 8,000 people was held in Beijing's great Hall of the People. Deng Liqun, director of the research department of the Secretariat of the C.P.C. Central Committee, gave a report on the achievements of socialism in China by making comparisons between old and New China. (An excerpt of his speech will be published in our weekly.)

Other commemorative activities in Beijing included: an academic discussion on the May 4th Movement in Beijing University, a gala party attended by 10,000 youngsters in the



Liu Gang (2nd from right) who won the Guo Moruo scholarship had been a worker for eight years before he entered the China University of Science and Technology in 1977.



Great Hall of the People, and a theatrical performance. Taking part in those gatherings were college students, young workers, P.L.A. army men and young people from the minority nationalities.

## People's Congress in Tibet

The third people's congress of the Tibet Autonomous Region recently held its third session in Lhasa. Two Tibetans were elected to top posts in the region.

Yang Dongsheng is the newly elected chairman of the standing committee of the regional people's congress. Born in Jinchuan County in the western part of Sichuan Province, he



Yang Dongsheng.

joined the Red Army in 1935 when it passed through the area during its Long March to northern Shaanxi Province. In 1950 he went to Tibet and served for some time as secretary of the Party committee of the region. He has been a vice-minister of the State Nationalities Affairs Commission since 1978.

The session also adopted a resolution making Ngapoi Ngawang Jigme chairman of the regional people's government. Born in 1911 in Lhasa, he was a high-ranking official of the local

government before liberation. In 1951, he was sent to Beijing as the chief representative of the local government for talks on the peaceful liberation of Tibet. After 1952, he served successively as the first deputy commander of the Tibet Military Command, vice-chairman of the preparatory committee of the Tibet Autonomous Region, chairman of the people's council of Tibet, Vice-Chairman of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference, and Vice-Chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress.

During the session, the representatives examined a report on the work of the regional government and agreed that it had done a good job in implementing the Party Central Committee's directives concerning Tibet announced in May 1980.



Ngapoi Ngawang Jigme.

Since then, agricultural production in Tibet has developed rapidly. Total grain output last year was 505,000 tons, 19 per cent more than in 1979. Total output value of traditional handicrafts was up by 21 per cent, and livestock also increased by 1.6 per cent. Now the people have more money and more grain, butter and meat. Last year, the income of the peasants and herdsmen in the region

## The Marriage Law in Tibet

The standing committee of the third people's congress of the Tibet Autonomous Region recently adopted modifications or supplementary articles for the implementation of the Marriage Law of the People's Republic of China. It adopted a decision stipulating that the modifications would come into effect next year together with the law.

In the light of local conditions, the modifications stipulate that no marriage shall be contracted before the man has reached 20 years of age and the woman 18 years of age, two years earlier in both cases than the stipulations in the Marriage Law. Late marriages are encouraged.

The modifications abolish the feudal practice of polygamy and polyandry, and stipulate that monogamy shall be practised. Owing to historical reasons, polygamy and polyandry are practised among quite a number of people in Tibet. In view of this situation, the modifications stipulate that such marriages, contracted before the Marriage Law and the modifications come into effect, will be maintained unless one of the parties concerned applies for a divorce.

The modifications also have stipulations for protecting the interests of women and children.

Article 36 of the Marriage Law says: "The people's congresses and their standing committees in national autonomous areas may enact certain modifications or supplementary articles in keeping with the principles of this law and in conformity with the actual conditions prevailing among the minority nationalities of the locality in regard to marriage and family relations."



rose markedly as a result of increased production as well as a hike in the purchasing prices of agricultural, animal husbandry and sideline products and exemption of taxes. Many peasants and herdsmen have built new houses and bought new clothes and furniture, and their personal savings have increased, too.

The new economic policy introduced in Tibet last year is much more flexible. It respects the initiative and right to self-management of the units at the grass-roots level. While stressing the expansion of agriculture and livestock breeding, it also encourages a diversified economy so as to bring about an all-round development. All these are aimed at improving the material well-being of the people of all nationalities in Tibet, raising their scientific and technical level, and bringing about step by step common prosperity in the region.

## ECONOMIC

### Grain Price on Rural Market

In spring every year, before the summer crops are ready for harvesting, the price of grain at the rural fairs is usually higher than in other seasons. This year, however, the situation has changed.

Investigations of 206 rural fairs in various parts of the country showed that grain on sale last spring increased by 16 per cent over that of the corresponding period of last year. Price was stable as a whole, with a drop in the price of some food grains. The price of rice, for instance, dropped



A peasant in Harbin selling green onions at a rural fair.

from 0.78 to 0.74 yuan per kg., and maize, from 0.396 to 0.362 yuan per kg.

Surplus grain sold by the peasants at the village fairs is dearer than grain sold at the state stores, and what the peasants pay for their rations of grain from their production teams is much lower than the price at the fairs. This is well illustrated by the situation on the outskirts of Beijing. The price of wheat was 0.70 yuan per kg. last March at the rural fairs while the price of the rations the peasants got from the collective was only 0.30 yuan per kg. (The state price of wheat flour was 0.37 yuan per kg.)

In spite of a drop in output last year, there was more grain on sale in spring this year on the rural market. There were mainly two reasons for this. First, the state purchased less grain from the peasants than before. Second, with the implementation of the responsibility system in production, the more the peasants produced, the greater the amount they could retain for themselves. Hence more surplus grain from the

peasants for sale on the rural market.

In areas hit by natural disasters, the agricultural tax in kind is reduced or exempted altogether, and sometimes the state sells some grain to these areas as the case may require. In the first quarter of this year, the state originally planned to sell an additional 1.6 million tons of grain to the grain-deficient areas, but actually only half of the amount was required. This shows that after the introduction of the responsibility system in production and diversification of the economy, the peasants have more cash and surplus grain and are in a better position to combat natural disasters.

In addition to grain, greater quantities of other farm and sideline products are on sale at the rural fairs. In the first quarter of this year, edible oil increased by 42 per cent; meat, poultry and eggs, 10 per cent; aquatic products, 63 per cent; and vegetables, 11.4 per cent. The average price of these commodities was 1.8 per cent lower than that of the corresponding



period of last year, while the volume of transactions rose by 25 per cent.

Thanks to the Party's flexible economic policies, great changes have taken place in the countryside. With a general rise in the peasants' income, total savings deposits in the rural areas at the end of 1980 amounted to 12,060 million yuan, and there was a further increase of 2,530 million yuan in the first quarter of this year.

## FOREIGN RELATIONS

### Greeting 60th Anniversary Of Romanian Communist Party

The Central Committee of the Communist Party of China sent a message on May 7 to the Central Committee of the Romanian Communist Party, warmly greeting its 60th anniversary. The message highly praised the Romanian Communist Party, headed by Comrade Nicolae Ceausescu, for leading the Romanian people in scoring great achievements in the revolution and in construction.

The message stressed the profound friendship between the Chinese and Romanian Parties and between the two peoples. This friendship, it said, is based on Marxism-Leninism and proletarian internationalism and has stood the test of time. Thanks to joint efforts, the relations of friendship and co-operation between the two Parties and two peoples have made new progress in recent years. The revolutionary friendship and militant unity between the two Parties and two peoples

will be further consolidated and developed in the common cause of socialist construction and in the struggle against imperialism and for world peace and the progress of mankind.

The 60th anniversary of the founding of the Romanian Communist Party was marked at a reception given in the Great Hall of the People on May 7 by the Chinese People's Association for Friendship With Foreign Countries and the China-Romania Friendship Association. An exhibition of the 60th anniversary of the Romanian Communist Party opened in Beijing on May 8.

### Message of Greetings to Francois Mitterrand

Chairman Ye Jianying of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress and Premier Zhao Ziyang on May 11 sent a message to Francois Mitterrand, warmly congratulating him on his election as President of the Republic of France.

In the message, they conveyed the wish that he would have many achievements during his term of office and expressed the hope that the friendly and co-operative relations between China and France and the deep friendship between the two peoples would continue to develop.

### Guests from the Third World

China belongs to the third world and to strengthen unity with the other third world countries is a major principle of China's foreign policy. This is fully borne out by the fact that various delegations from countries in Asia, Africa, Latin

America and Oceania have recently come on visits to China.

**Colombian Delegation.** A delegation of the House of Representatives of Colombia led by Santiago Munoz Piedrahita met on separate occasions with Xi Zhongxun, Vice-Chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress, and Premier Zhao Ziyang. They discussed international questions and bilateral relations and shared identical views on the issue of opposing the global and regional hegemonists. They agreed that there are broad prospects for the development of Sino-Colombian relations.

This was the first delegation from the Colombian House of Representatives to visit China since the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries.

**Guest From Papua New Guinea.** Iambakey Okuk, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Transport and Civil Aviation of Papua New Guinea, had a successful visit to China. The distinguished guest from the South Pacific met with Vice-Chairman Li Xiannian and Premier Zhao Ziyang, and held talks with Vice-Premier and Foreign Minister Huang Hua. The two sides considered that the present international instability stems from the aggressive policies and actions of the Soviet Union. They agreed that the two sides should strengthen their unity to oppose aggression and expansionist plots. The Chinese side praised the Government of Papua New Guinea for following a foreign policy of peace and neutrality, opposition to aggression, expansion and interference in the internal affairs of other countries, opposition to big power rivalry in the South Pacific, and active promotion of the cause of unity



and co-operation in this region. The important role played by Papua New Guinea in the "South Pacific Forum" was also praised.

**Moroccan Parliamentary Delegation.** Vice-Chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress Peng Chong and Premier Zhao Ziyang met on separate occasions with the Moroccan parliamentary delegation led by Maaelaine Mohamed Taquioul Lah, Third Vice-President of the Chamber of Representatives of Morocco.

The Chinese side expressed high appreciation of Morocco's persistent support to the just cause of the Arab, Palestinian and African peoples and their sympathy and support for the Afghan and Democratic Kampuchean peoples who are suffering from external aggression.

The Chinese side held that the delegation's visit has contributed to the strengthening of co-operation between the two countries and friendly relations and mutual understanding between the two peoples. Both sides expressed the wish to promote unity among the third world countries.

**First Deputy Prime Minister of Iraq.** Vice-Chairman Deng Xiaoping and Premier Zhao Ziyang met with Taha Yassin Ramadhan, First Deputy Prime Minister of Iraq. Vice-Premier Ji Pengfei held talks with him and exchanged views on the present international situation and bilateral relations.

The Chinese side reiterated its consistent stand on the Iraq-Iran war, and expressed the hope that the two countries will end their war through peaceful

consultation, mutual understanding and accommodation so as to avert superpower intervention.

During Ramadhan's stay in Beijing, two agreements on trade, economic and technical co-operation between the two countries were signed.

### Protest Against Vietnamese Provocations

Recently, the Vietnamese authorities again dispatched a large number of armed personnel to assault and harass the many border areas of China's Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region and Yunnan Province, gravely endangering the lives and normal production activities of the Chinese border inhabitants.

While continuing to create tension along the Sino-Vietnamese border, the Vietnamese authorities have hypocritically professed willingness to improve the relations between the two countries. This is the double tactics consistently used by the Vietnamese side.

The Chinese Foreign Ministry sent a note to the Vietnamese Embassy in Beijing on May 5, strongly protesting against the above-mentioned actions. It also demanded that the Vietnamese authorities immediately stop their encroachments on Chinese territory and put an end to their provocations and disruptive activities along the Sino-Vietnamese border. The Chinese Government reserves the right to demand from the Vietnamese authorities compensation for all the losses thus incurred.

Since the beginning of this year, the Vietnamese authorities have carried out organized and planned military provocations and intrusions on as many as 241 occasions into China's border counties and cities. These include Fangcheng, Pingxiang, Napo, Jingxi, Longzhou, Ningming and Daxin of the Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, and Jinping, Maguan, Funing, Hekou and Malipo of Yunnan Province. The Vietnamese soldiers killed or wounded more than 60 Chinese border inhabitants and frontier guards, kidnapped 19 civilians, killed or seized a large number of cattle and destroyed many civilian houses, thereby inflicting heavy losses of life and property.

**Counterattack in Self-Defence.** On the morning of May 5 the Vietnamese troops brazenly invaded the Fakashan mountain area in the Xiashi Commune of Ningming County, Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region. The Chinese frontier guards immediately counterattacked, forcing the intruding troops to retreat. On May 7 more than 100 Vietnamese soldiers intruded into Malipo County in Yunnan Province. The Chinese frontier guards counterattacked and annihilated all of them.





## Tension on the Korean Peninsula

THE Reagan administration has moved to escalate tension on the Korean Peninsula. On April 30, U.S. Defence Secretary Caspar Weinberger ended a two-day "security meeting" in San Francisco with south Korean Defence Minister Choo Young Bok, in which the United States pledged to provide the regime with sophisticated weapons.

The weapons include the "Stinger" air defence system, a thousand M-55-1 light tanks and a number of M-88 tank retrievers. Weinberger also promised to extend terms for financing weapon purchases from 9 to 12 years. This would apply to the \$1,000 million sale of F-16 jet fighters to the south Korean regime.

As a pretext for boosting the south Korean dictatorship's military might, the old hoax about the security of the south being threatened by a "north Korean military buildup" was trotted out again. The communique issued after the talks even stated that the United States will provide south Korea with rapid and effective aid to repulse an armed invasion of south Korea. All this bunkum is designed to deceive the world.

Tension is escalating on the peninsula and it is of the U.S. Government's and the south Korean authorities' doing. Joint military manoeuvres were held by the United States and the south Korean authorities on February 1 south of the demarcation line and in south Korean waters and lasted a full two months. Now, Chun Du Hwan is busily acquiring mili-

tary equipment and lethal weapons, which can only lead to greater tension and deepen the rift between the north and the south.

The Democratic People's Republic of Korea has repeatedly stated that it has no intention to launch any "southward invasion," nor wish for war. On the contrary, it has put forward a series of proposals for a peaceful reunification of the country. These proposals have the sympathy and support of all who love peace.

According to the spirit of the 1972 Joint Statement of the North and South, any hostilities and military activities threatening the other side should stop

as early as possible so as to relax the tension on the Korean Peninsula and speed up the talks between the two sides in keeping with the aspirations of the entire Korean people. The recent U.S. move to strengthen south Korean military forces departs from the common wish of the Korean people. There is only one way to create favourable conditions for the peaceful solution of the Korean problem, and that is for the U.S. Government to end its interference in Korean internal affairs, discontinue its policy of "two Koreas," cut off its military aid to south Korea's dictatorial regime and pull out all its troops and military equipment from the south.

— "Renmin Ribao" commentary, May 4

## Kampuchea

### The Failure of the Vietnamese Attack in the Dry Season

The Democratic Kampuchean armed forces scored a number of victories in the country's major fronts in the past dry season (November, 1980-April, 1981).

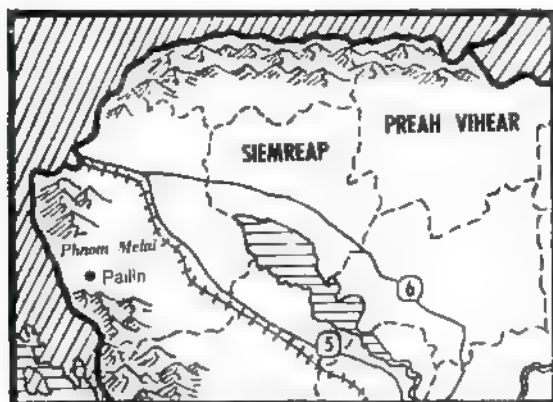
Since last October, Viet Nam had been massing troops to attack the Siemreap area, northwest Kampuchea, in an attempt to check the growth of the Kampuchean people's armed forces. But they met with strong resistance from the National Army and the guerrillas of Democratic Kampuchea, and their campaign ended in failure. The Democratic Kampuchean army and guerrillas have stepped up their raids and are carrying on guerrilla warfare everywhere. They have opened

up three new fronts, around Siemreap, in the north and in northwest Kampuchea. They are constantly cutting the major highways and have destroyed dozens of fortified positions.

Following is a report by Xinhua Correspondent Yang Mu who has just returned from the newly enlarged liberated Melai Mountain District. — Ed.

RECENTLY, the Kampuchean armed forces completely liberated the Melai Mountain District, the Chep area and the Siemreap-Preah Vihear area. Most significant is their victory in practically clearing the Melai Mountain District of Vietnamese. The





victory in this district shows the falling morale of the Vietnamese troops and that the people are backing the forces of Democratic Kampuchea.

### Fighting in the Melai Mountain

The Melai Mountain is 6 kilometres in length and 2.5 kilometres in width and is the start of the Cardamom Mountain, along the Kampuchean-Thai frontier in western Kampuchea. Phnom Raung, the highest peak of the Melai Mountain, is over 300 metres above sea level. Though the mountain is not very high, there are dense forests and precipitous cliffs and strategic points making it easy to defend. The Melai Mountain District starts 56 kilometres from Poipet and Nimit in the north and extends south along Highway 502. It is 8-20 kilometres wide from west to east. This district has been bitterly contested since the Vietnamese invasion of Kampuchea in 1979.

Before September, 1980, 14 fortified positions in the Melai Mountain District were still under the control of the enemy. After 47 days of fighting early this year, the National Army of Kampuchea succeeded in taking over Phnom Raung, Mak Heun Mountain and seven other strongholds and annihilated

most of the enemy troops in this district.

### Factors Behind The Victory

In April, this correspondent visited the Melai Mountain District and saw how the Democratic Kampuchean army de-

feated the Vietnamese enemy. The victory illustrates that:

1. The National Army's tactics have vastly improved. In fighting, the Democratic Kampuchean armed forces, waging a guerrilla war, concentrated their troops and thus succeeded in overrunning the enemy's strongholds in a planned way. They annihilated more than 400 enemy troops and captured large quantities of arms and ammunition. Apart from one section a dozen kilometres long lying close to Highway No. 5, the whole district has been liberated from Vietnamese occupation. This is the biggest victory won by the National Army in the Melai Mountain District since 1979.

Division Commander Sok Piap told this correspondent that the dry-season operation was carried out in three stages: First, the National Army took the O Sralau Bridge on Highway 502 on December 31, 1980, and later stormed five enemy strongholds along the highway to the northeast of the bridge, thus cutting off the Vietnamese supply line to the border town of Pailin by Highway No. 5. Second, the Democratic Kampuchean armed forces captured the commanding peak of the Melai Mountain, Phnom Raung, which had been in Vietnamese hands for 18 months, thus removing the enemy's threat and

isolating the 1,000 Vietnamese troops guarding the O Sralau airstrip. Lastly, they crushed the Vietnamese resistance and took the airstrip and the Mak Heun Mountain stronghold.

Now, the Democratic Kampuchean armed forces are capable of wiping out whole enemy platoons, or routing whole enemy battalions and regiments.

2. The sinking morale of the Vietnamese. Apart from greater mastery of the tactics to deal with the enemy in the district, the Democratic Kampuchean victory was helped by the sinking morale of the enemy. The Vietnamese who used to be very aggressive in the field, have had to hole up in their fortifications day and night. The correspondent was told that during a recent attack on a fortified post, one of the Vietnamese soldiers inside threw out a note saying: "Please pound us with heavier fire and for a longer time to provide us with an excuse for quitting this place."

3. The feelings of the people are evident. During the attack on Phnom Raung, the people in the Melai Mountain District provided effective support for the anti-Vietnamese struggle. Practically the whole of Village No. 2 turned out to help the National Army. Volunteers helped transport ammunition and food to the soldiers in the field and to evacuate the wounded. Some 1,200 young people in the district have enlisted in the National Army in the last six months and thousands of people have moved from enemy-occupied areas to settle down in the newly liberated district. The victorious operations in the Melai district provide opportunities for expanding the liberated areas and developing production.



Recently, Vietnamese garrisons in areas close to the Thai frontier have been reinforced. The Vietnamese certainly can, if they choose to, launch offensive actions in some parts of the

country in the monsoon season that has just begun. But the developments during the last three dry seasons can hardly be reversed. The aggressors are facing tougher days ahead.

## **Afghanistan Tribunal**

### **Just Verdict**

**T**HE People's Permanent Tribunal set up in 1976 and consisting of famous judges from different countries set up the Afghanistan Tribunal of 14 experts on international law and judges from 11 countries. After three days of the open trial in Stockholm of the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan, the Afghanistan Tribunal gave its ruling on May 5, declaring the Soviet armed invasion and occupation of Afghanistan to be an "act of aggression" and a "crime violating world peace."

Afghans testifying in the court included diplomats who had defected in protest against the Soviet invasion, and Afghan resistance leaders. They presented an abundance of facts to prove the Soviet Union had violated the norms of international law and the U.N. Charter, trampled upon the independence and sovereignty of Afghanistan and had killed many Afghan people. It was shown that the Soviet invasion had caused the deaths of at least a million people and had driven some 2 million to take refuge abroad. The total population in Afghanistan was about 19 million. Numerous Afghans have been persecuted, arrested and imprisoned. All these have taken place in the name of "selfless aid" given by the Soviet Union to Afghanistan.

They are the result of Moscow's stretching its "friendly hand" to the Afghanistan people.

The Soviet invasion in Afghanistan cannot be wiped out from the minds of the Afghan people. Though the Soviet leaders have put forward various proposals of peace in an attempt to whitewash and cover up their aggression, the Soviet Union will always be considered by the peace-loving people as an out-and-out aggressor. If it pulls out its troops from

Afghanistan, it may help mend its image. But for more than a year, at the U.N. General Assembly, at conferences of Islamic countries and other international conferences, the people have called vigorously for Moscow to withdraw its troops from Afghanistan. Yet the Soviet Union has ignored these demands and has carried out further suppression of the Afghan people.

The Afghanistan Tribunal has returned a just verdict in condemning the Soviet aggression. The Soviet Union has once again been told where it stands. The verdict shows that everyone who upholds justice will never tolerate aggression. The people of the world want to see independence restored in Afghanistan and world peace and basic international principles safeguarded.

— Ren Yan

## **South Africa Cannot Be Condoned**

**S**INCE the failure of the January Geneva conference on Namibia to reach a ceasefire agreement between the two antagonists—the South West Africa People's Organization (SWAPO) and the South African authorities—renewed efforts have been made by many countries and international organizations to find an early solution to the Namibian issue. Most recently, a summit conference of the six African frontline countries (Angola, Botswana, Mozambique, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe) and a special conference of foreign ministers of the non-aligned na-

tions' co-ordination bureau have both condemned the South African Government while giving firm support to the just struggle of SWAPO, the sole and genuine representative of the Namibian people.

At the 35th session of the U.N. General Assembly on March 5-6, a resolution was passed by majority vote urging the Security Council to consider effective measures, including mandatory and comprehensive sanctions, against South Africa. When draft resolutions on the proposed sanctions were introduced at a Security Coun-



cil meeting in late April, however, they were vetoed by the United States, Britain and France. According to the U.S. representative to the United Nations, the imposition of sanctions is "an improper means" of achieving the common goal in Namibia.

### China's Stand

During the Security Council debate over the resolutions, Chinese representative to the United Nations Ling Qing stressed that the South African authorities should be sternly censured and have sanctions imposed against them, because "the motives and underhanded tactics of the South African racist regime represent the major obstacle to Namibian independence." He also commented that "the South African regime appears to count on the support and condonation of certain Western powers in continuing its deplorable racist and colonialist policies and its illegal occupation of Namibia."

The Chinese representative has pledged that the Chinese Government will "consistently endorse the correct views and proposals of the African countries. . . . The United Nations should, without further delay, enforce its earlier plan for the settlement of the Namibian question, which was endorsed by Security Council Resolution 435, so as to enable the Namibian people to attain genuine independence on the basis of territorial integrity and unity."

### Western Transience

Before the Council debate, five Western nations — the United States, Britain, France, West Germany and Canada — issued a statement committing themselves to an "internationally acceptable settlement for Namibia"

and said they would continue their common efforts towards this goal. Officials of the five countries also met for two days in London, where U.S. assistant secretary of state-designate for African affairs Chester Crocker gave a report on his recent tour of 12 African states, including South Africa, and presented his ideas on the Namibian question. At the end of the meeting, a joint statement was issued advocating that the U.N. proposals for self-rule in Namibia be "enhanced by measures aimed at giving greater confidence to all of the parties in the future of an independent Namibia."

Meanwhile, the United States, Britain and France, three permanent members of the Security Council, proposed that the president of the South Africa-fostered Democratic Turnhalle Alliance in Namibia be asked to speak during the Council's consideration of the Namibia question. But the proposal was rejected by a vote of 9 to 8.

The U.S. Government's sympathy and support for Pretoria

is becoming increasingly clear, as shown by its recent public invitation to the Foreign Minister of South Africa to pay an official visit to the United States. Such conduct has infuriated the African countries. Furthermore, the African nations object to any attempt to settle the question of Namibia outside of the United Nations. They view the Security Council's Resolution 435 of 1978 as the only basis for Namibian independence.

Ending racism and colonialism on the African continent is regarded by today's African nations as their historical mission. Any support for or acceptance of the position of the South African racist regime will therefore only antagonize the broad masses of the African people and inflate the arrogant intransigence of the racists, as world opinion and many far-sighted people in the West have stated. This will inevitably lead to greater turbulence in the region and provide opportunities for intervention and expansion by outside hegemonist forces.

— Ren Wenhui

## One Year After Tito's Death

### Report From Yugoslavia

ON May 4, 1980, President Tito passed away. A year has passed. What changes have taken place in Yugoslavia? Here is what *Renmin Ribao's* correspondent writes from Belgrade.

### Carrying on Tito's Cause

The Yugoslav people are determined to advance along the path of the late President Tito and carry on his revolutionary cause. First of all, this has been

manifested in the system of state leadership. Since the death of Tito, the collective system of leadership of Yugoslavia is continually improving. The Presidency of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, as a collective, has established for itself high prestige by its making timely policy decisions on major internal and international problems. Tito's proposal on collective leadership and a one-year term of office are now in draft form as seven amendments to the



Constitution. After extensive discussions for several months, the principle of collective leadership will be written into the Yugoslav Constitution. The 12th Congress, scheduled to take place next year, is being prepared by the Central Committee of the League of Communists which is planning to write this principle into the Constitution of the League of Communists.

### Enlarge Socialist Autonomy

The development and further perfection of socialist autonomy is a component part of Tito's thought. The adoption of the new Constitution in 1974 and the promulgation of the new Associated Labour Law in 1976 marked the development of autonomy into a new stage. However, promulgation is not necessarily implementation, and much work needs to be done. Not long before Tito was hospitalized, he pointed out that the development of the Yugoslav autonomy system was not advancing, the new Constitution and the Associated Labour Law were not being satisfactorily carried out, the working people were not exercising real autonomy, many major decisions involving the interests of the labourers were adopted by them only after they had been mapped out by the leading members of departments concerned, the implementation of "to each according to his work" was not being smoothly implemented, and representatives of delegations at all levels were not giving full play to their roles. Therefore, the late President Tito proposed convening the third congress of self-managers. After a long period of preparations, the congress will be held next month. It will

be a major event in realizing the thinking of Tito and further developing socialist democracy.

The non-aligned movement lost an outstanding founder with the death of President Tito. But practice in the past year has proved that Yugoslavia, after the death of Tito, has adhered to the basic principle of the non-aligned movement in its extensive international activities. It defies brute force, dares to resist high-handed pressure, resolutely opposes interference from outside and bloc policy and hegemonism. Yugoslavia's stand in this respect is appreciated by progressive mankind.

### Advance Despite Difficulties

Over the past year, Yugoslavia achieved new successes along Tito's path but at the same time it encountered some difficulties and problems. In June last year, Yugoslavia's international trade deficit experienced a sharp increase and the government was forced to adopt a counter measure. It devaluated the dinar, which brought about an increase in exports and a reduction in imports. But a shortage of materials ensued following the rise in exports and this affected production increases and the stability of prices. The price rise was halted by decisive measures, but thoroughly changing the instability of the economy will be a long-term strategic task. The 1981-85 plan adopted recently is aimed at fundamentally solving the economic imbalances and ultimately stabilizing the economy.

After the passing away of Tito, enemies at home and abroad took advantage of the

situation in Yugoslavia, particularly its difficulties in the economic field. Towards the end of last year, reactionaries at home, including nationalists of all hues, supported by anti-Yugoslavia centres abroad, began to rear their heads. Early this year, the League of Communists held a special meeting to discuss the situation and decided to expose and firmly criticize the hostile activities. They proposed, in particular, the strengthening of political and ideological work among Communists and youths. However, a tree may prefer calm, but the wind will not subside. At the end of March and early April, hostile demonstrations broke out in the autonomous province of Kosovo, when nationalistic slogans aimed at splitting Yugoslavia were raised. It led to bloodshed, but the demonstrations were quelled by the common efforts of the security organs and the people of Kosovo.

The Yugoslav people, who overcame extremely severe difficulties under the leadership of the late President Tito, have surmounted all kinds of difficulties today under the command of the new leadership. This shows the vitality of the Yugoslav autonomous system. People are confident that no matter what happens, Yugoslavia will persevere along Tito's path and continue to make progress in attaining economic stability, enhancing national unity, strengthening defence by the whole people as well as in its implementation of the policy of non-alignment.

— "Renmin Ribao" Correspondent Huang Bingjun



## Developing Sino-Canadian Friendship

— Soong Ching Ling's speech on receiving Honorary  
Doctorate of Laws from Victoria University



Madame Soong Ching Ling and Dr. Howard Petch, President of Victoria University, at the degree conferring ceremony in Beijing.

Soong Ching Ling, Vice-Chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress and Honorary President of the Chinese People's Association for Friendship With Foreign Countries, received the title and degree of Honorary Doctor of Laws from the University of Victoria, Canada, in the Great Hall of the People on May 8.

At the ceremony, Dr. Howard Petch, President of Victoria University, presented the diploma to Soong Ching Ling.

In his speech, President Petch praised Madame Soong Ching Ling as "one of the foremost public servants and social leaders of the 20th century."

He said: "Her unswerving devotion to the well-being of the Chinese people has won for her a special place in the hearts of admirers around the world."

"We are here to honour her as an individual and by honouring her to express our friendship and respect for her nation and her society."

Madame Soong Ching Ling, in her academic regalia, made a speech in English at the ceremony. Following is her speech in full. — Ed.

I AM honoured to accept the doctorate from the University of Victoria.

I accept it not for myself but as a token of your respect and friendship for the Chinese people and what they have achieved through protracted revolutionary struggles and in the building of our People's Republic. Equally, I accept it as a token of the old, and firm friendship that binds the people of China and Canada.

Our countries face each other across the Pacific. Long ago many Chinese began to go to Canada to work. They contributed in many



ways to the building up of Canada. They won the respect of their fellow-citizens of other origins — they have been good Canadians. At the same time they have not forgotten their ancestral homeland, whose progress they have never failed to assist. In Sun Yat-sen's day they were staunch supporters of his cause — he himself spent much time among them. They aided that cause not only financially but by joining its ranks, many returning to China to help achieve its aims. Later, in the struggles to repel Japanese militarist invasion and still later to found and build the People's Republic of China, they continued their staunch support.

And it is not only they, among the Canadians, who have stood by us. Both in the anti-monarchic revolution led by Sun Yat-sen and in the new democratic and socialist revolutions led by the Chinese Communist Party, the Chinese people have been helped by justice-loving Canadians of European ancestry. Their most outstanding representative and noblest symbol was Dr. Norman Bethune, who gave his life in 1939 while serving the wounded on China's most arduous front, the guerrilla front of the liberated areas. Lauded by the late Chairman Mao Zedong's famous essay, *In Memory of Norman Bethune*, his name is known among the entire Chinese people who regard him as the brightest example of international sharing of weal and woe in the cause of progress and justice. When men, women and even children in even the most remote parts of our vast country hear the word Canada, they think of Bethune, and when they hear the name Bethune they think of Canada, his homeland. Bethune's bones rest on Chinese soil, his memory is enshrined in Chinese hearts. he will bind China and Canada together for centuries and for millennia. In a larger sense, it fell to a Canadian, in China, to become an international exemplar of the necessary solidarity of people from all countries in battle against all would-be enslavers, and this is an honour to both our lands.

More generally, numerous Canadians, government people, educators and others have been friendly to China's struggles for equality and independence. It was so, notably, in World War II, when our two countries were allies against the fascist axis. It is so today. I would like, among long-term friends, particularly to mention Dr. Chester Ronning and Dr. James Endicott, and there are many more. Since the founding of the People's Republic of China and

especially since the establishment of diplomatic relations between China and Canada the bridge of Chinese-Canadian friendship has become more stable, broader and stronger, including good state relations, mutually advantageous trade, and academic and other amicable exchanges.

In the present, as in the past, we have a common interest not only in continued friendship but, tangibly and sharply, in common effort for the preservation of world peace. Experience has taught both Chinese and Canadians that to guard peace, there must be a clear stand against all aggression by one state against another, all attempts by superpower expansionists to impose their will on the peoples and nations of the world.

As in the 1930s, the choice between two alternatives stands stark and clear. One is the course that, history has painfully taught us, leads to world war — the course of illusion, weakness, disharmony and appeasement that can only embolden and accelerate the aggressor's clearly unfolding drive for global hegemony. The other is the course of realism, of firmly knit and determined resistance to halt that drive. The international situation is getting increasingly tense and turbulent and world peace is under serious menace. The root cause lies in expansion and aggression by hegemonism. We must face it firmly and adopt effective measures to cope with the present critical international situation.

Sun Yat-sen, in his last will, called upon us, in our country, to ensure the "elevation of China to a position of freedom and equality among the nations." And he wrote that "to ensure this goal we must bring about an awakening of our own people and ally ourselves with those peoples of the world that regard us as equals." Today China's international position is better than ever before, her people are awakened as never before, and on this basis she is confident that she can achieve the tasks of further progress epitomized in the current goal of socialist modernization. In this task, too, we must work with all those in the world who regard us as equals — among whom are the people and nation of Canada.

Let us salute, foster and develop the deep-rooted friendship between China and Canada, in the spirit of which I am happy to accept your award. □

# Communique on Fulfilment of China's 1980 National Economic Plan

— Issued on April 29, 1981 by the State Statistical Bureau

*Following is the second half of the communique. The first half appeared in our last issue. — Ed.*

## 5. Domestic Trade

The total value of commodities purchased by commercial departments owned by the whole people reached 226,300 million yuan in 1980, topping that in the previous year by 13.6 per cent. This included 156,760 million yuan worth of manufactured goods, an increase of 12.8 per cent over 1979, and 67,700 million yuan worth of farm produce and sideline products, an increase of 15.4 per cent. Purchases of most of the main manufactured goods and farm produce surpassed those of 1979. Among them, the purchase of cotton cloth rose 17.9 per cent over 1979, chemical fibre cloth, 71.3 per cent, leather shoes, 43.5 per cent, wristwatches, sewing machines, bicycles and television sets, 24 to 40 per cent, radio sets and cassette recorders, above 85 per cent, cotton, 25.8 per cent, edible vegetable oil, 26.7 per cent, and hogs, 3 per cent. The purchase of grain, which suffered a loss due to natural disasters, was slightly less than in the previous year.

The 1980 total value of retail sales was 214,000 million yuan, an 18.9 per cent increase over 1979, or a 12.2 per cent increase, if the rise in retail prices is excluded. (The 1980 total value of retail sales includes 6,900 million yuan from retail sales by peasants to the non-agricultural population. The 1979 total value of retail sales is correspondingly readjusted to 180,000 million yuan from the original 175,250 million yuan.) Retail sales of consumer goods were marked by an overall increase, and the growth of sales of durable consumer goods was even quicker.

Compared with the 1979 retail sales of main consumer goods, the sale of edible vegetable oil went up 20 per cent, pork, 15.3 per cent, sugar, 9.2 per cent, cotton cloth, 7.6 per cent, chemical fibre cloth, 32.5 per cent, woollen textiles, 34.2 per cent, silk fabrics, 25 per cent,

leather shoes, 34 per cent, sewing machines, bicycles, radio sets and wristwatches, from 23 to 66 per cent, and television sets and cassette recorders, 100 and 240 per cent respectively.

By the end of 1980, commercial departments owned by the whole people had 9.2 per cent more goods kept in stock than in 1979.

There was a greater supply of market commodities in 1980, yet supply still could not meet the growth in social purchasing power. Some industrial consumer goods fell short of demand. The supply of some consumer goods and building materials for rural needs was not sufficient. Some commodities in stock did not satisfy consumer demands.

The government again raised the state purchasing prices of some farm produce in 1980, including cotton, sheep and goat skins, jute and ambary hemp, timber, raw lacquer and tung oil. In addition, more farm produce was purchased at negotiated prices, and at higher prices for that part above the purchase quota. As a result, the total purchasing price index for farm produce and sideline products went up 7.1 per cent over the previous year, which was 22.1 per cent above 1978. Starting in November 1979, the state raised the retail price for the main non-staple foodstuffs, and in 1980 many places readjusted the retail prices for a small number of manufactured goods, thus causing the annual average general level of retail prices of the nation (including state listed prices, negotiated prices and prices on the rural market) to register a 6 per cent increase over 1979. (The general level of retail prices is calculated according to the average prices of the year. It shows a 2.2 per cent rise if December 1980 is taken to compare with the corresponding 1979 period.) Among these were an 8.1 per cent increase in cities and a 4.4 per cent increase in rural areas; a 7.1 per cent increase in consumer goods prices and a 1 per cent increase in the price of means of production for rural use.

Of the price fluctuations of consumer goods, the price of clothing remained the same, food



rose 10.5 per cent (of which state commercial price of non-staple food rose 13.8 per cent), daily necessities, 1.2 per cent, commodities for cultural and recreational activities, 0.7 per cent, pharmaceuticals, 0.9 per cent, and fuel, 0.7 per cent.

## 6. Foreign Trade, Tourism

The total value of imports and exports came to 56,300 million yuan in 1980, a 23.6 per cent rise compared with 1979. Export value totalled 27,200 million yuan, exceeding 1979 by 28.7 per cent, and import value, 29,100 million yuan, a rise of 19.2 per cent. Import value outstripped export value by 1,900 million yuan.

The proportion of heavy industrial products and mineral products among the exported commodities rose from 44 per cent in 1979 to 51.8 per cent. Coal, oil products, machine tools and bearings had a fairly big export growth.

Of the imported commodities, complete sets of equipment showed a 103.9 per cent increase over 1979, accounting for 12.9 per cent of total import value as against 7.6 per cent in 1979. Imports of raw materials for the textile and

light industries, such as cotton, chemical fibres and paper pulp, shot up by 68.6 per cent, compared with 1979, and their proportion of the total import value rose to 24.3 per cent as against 17.2 per cent in the year before. The import of consumer goods, including grain, fats, vegetable oils, wristwatches, television sets and cassette recorders, went up by 35.6 per cent over 1979, accounting for 21.2 per cent of the total import value as against 18.6 per cent in 1979. Imports of chemical fertilizer and other means of production for rural use rose 48.4 per cent over the previous year, and their proportion of the total import value rose from 5.9 per cent in 1979 to 7.3 per cent in 1980. The import of single-item equipment, rolled steel and pig iron was cut back considerably.

In 1980 the total number of foreigners, overseas Chinese and Chinese compatriots from Xianggang (Hongkong) and Aomen (Macao), coming on tours and visits and for trade, sports, scientific and cultural exchanges reached 5.7 million, 1,499,000 more than in the previous year, a 35.6 per cent increase. Among them, tourists from 164 countries and regions accounted for 529,000, a 46 per cent rise. Annual foreign exchange income was 920 million yuan Renminbi, 32 per cent over 1979.

## 7. Science and Technology, Education, Culture

At the end of 1980, there were 5,296,000 personnel in the natural sciences and technological units owned by the whole people. Good results were achieved in more than 2,600 major scientific and technological research items in 1980. Among these were 107 innovations and inventions ratified by the state.

The number of institutions of higher learning in 1980 reached 675, or 42 more than the figure in the preceding year. The student body came to 1,144,000, an increase of 124,000 over 1979. This included 281,000 newly enrolled (including local enlarged enrolment), 6,000 more than the previous year's figure. There were 324,000 people enrolled in TV colleges, an increase of 44,000 over the preceding year. In addition, 455,000 people were enrolled in factory-run or spare-time colleges. Secondary technical schools had an enrolment of 1,243,000, 44,000 more than in 1979. Reform in the structure of secondary education continued. There were 55,081,000 regular middle school students, a



A great variety of products for export are now being made at the Huainan Arts and Crafts Workshop in Anhui Province.

decline of 3,734,000 compared with the previous year. There were 454,000 students in agricultural and other vocational schools of secondary education level. Workers' training schools had a total enrolment of 680,000. There were 146.27 million primary school pupils and 11.51 million children in kindergartens. With a view to training specialists, 2,124 students were sent to study abroad by educational departments in 1980. Many departments, localities and units organized various types of courses for workers, staff members, peasants and job-waiting youths to study and improve their general knowledge or vocational skills.

Literature, drama, films, ballad-singing, music, dance and fine arts flourished in 1980. Eighty-two feature films were produced in the year, and altogether 116 new full-length films of various types were distributed. More than 1,000 programmes were staged in 1980, including items on modern themes, new versions of historical themes and fine traditional items. There were 125,000 film-projection units, 3,533 performing art troupes, 2,912 cultural centres, 1,732 public libraries, and 365 museums in China. The number of broadcasting stations reached 106, with 484 transmitting and relay stations. There were 38 TV centres and 246 TV transmitting and relay stations, each equipped with transmitters of 1,000 watts or more. The annual output of national and provincial newspapers was 14,040 million copies. An aggregate of 1,120 million copies of magazines and 4,590 million copies of books were published.

In science and technology, education and culture, problems remain: There are not enough scientists and technicians; there are insufficient school buildings, backward equipment, irrational structure of secondary education, and improper use of some people with special knowledge.

## 8. Health Work, Sports

Efforts continued in 1980 to readjust health departments at various levels, consolidate medical and health work organizations and strengthen scientific management. The national total of hospital beds reached 1,982,000, or 2.6



A lab at Fudan University in Shanghai which received a top award for its success in developing a catalyst used in the production of a polyester fibre.

per cent more than the previous year. There were 2,798,000 professional medical workers, representing a 5.9 per cent increase over the preceding year. They included 262,000 doctors of traditional Chinese medicine, 447,000 senior and 444,000 junior doctors of Western medicine, and 466,000 nurses. Health departments at various levels strengthened in-service training of the medical workers, and launched patriotic health campaigns and conducted work to prevent and treat diseases on a wide scale.

Nineteen eighty saw Chinese sportsmen chalk up seven world records in weight-lifting, shooting, model airplane flying, parachuting and model boat, and equal three other world records. China won three world championships in table tennis and gymnastics. One hundred and twenty national records and 46 junior national records were broken. Some 23,000 sports meets were held at the county level and above. An additional 8.56 million people reached the standards set in the National Physical Training Programme, representing a 37 per cent increase over the preceding year.

## 9. People's Livelihood

Continued improvements were made in the livelihood of most of the urban and rural population in 1980. The per-capita income in rural people's communes derived from the basic accounting units of the collective economy was 85.9 yuan, an increase of 2.5 yuan over 1979. Owing to a fairly fast development of household





Peasants from the suburbs of Shanghai touring West Lake in Hangzhou.

sideline occupations, coupled with the rise in the state purchasing prices of part of the farm produce and other factors, the total income of members of rural people's communes increased substantially over that of the previous year.

Nine million people were provided with jobs in 1980. They included young people waiting for jobs and other people in cities and towns throughout China, and 1980 graduates of universities, colleges and secondary technical schools who were assigned under unified state plan. The total number of workers and staff members employed in units owned by the whole people and collectively owned units came to 104.44 million at the end of 1980, 4.77 million more than a year before. They included 80.19 million in units owned by the whole people, an increase of 3.26 million over the 1979 figure; 24.25 million in collectively owned units in cities and towns, an increase of 1.51 million over the number in 1979. In addition, more than 810,000 people operated individual businesses in cities and towns, representing an increase of 500,000 people over 1979.

Owing to the increase in the number of workers and staff members, pay rises for workers and staff members, the adoption of piece work pay on a wider scale, the implementation of a reward system and subsidies for price rises in non-staple food, the total 1980 wage bill reached 77,300 million yuan, exceeding the previous year by 19.5 per cent. The wage bill for workers and staff members employed in units owned by the whole people amounted to 62,800 million yuan, an increase of 18.5 per cent over 1979. The wage bill for workers and staff members in collectively owned units in cities

and towns totalled 14,500 million yuan, an increase of 23.9 per cent.

Wages of workers and staff members throughout the country averaged 762 yuan in 1980, a 14.1 per cent increment over the previous year, or a real increase of 6.1 per cent after deducting the 7.5 per cent rise in the cost of living index. The average wage of workers and staff members employed in units owned by the whole

people was 803 yuan in 1980, representing a 13.9 per cent increase over 1979, or a real gain of 6 per cent. The average wage of workers and staff members in collectively owned units in cities and towns was 824 yuan, representing a 15.1 per cent increase over 1979, or a real gain of 7.1 per cent.

At the end of 1980, the savings deposits of the urban and rural population totalled 39,900 million yuan, topping the 1979 figure by 41.9 per cent.

Some 82.3 million square metres of housing were built with investment in capital construction in 1980 for workers and staff members in units owned by the whole people, a 31.6 per cent increase over 1979.

The problems in people's livelihood are: Life is still rather hard for the peasants in some areas affected by natural calamities; price hikes affect the living standards of workers and staff members who receive no bonuses; jobs have yet to be given to some people in cities and towns; some units pass out bonuses and subsidies indiscriminately in violation of state regulations; and quite a few units raise prices at will or in disguised forms.

## 10. Population

At the end of 1980, China had a population of 982.55 million, an increase of 11.63 million, or 1.2 per cent over the 1979 figure of 970.92 million.

**Note:** The figures for Taiwan Province are not included in the communiqué. □

## Can China's Prices Be Stabilized?

*Rising prices are a problem of common concern around the world. In response to questions about China's attempts to stabilize its prices, our correspondent Wei Min interviewed Liu Zhuofu, Director of the National Price Bureau. The following article is based on his answers. — Ed.*

**Present-Day Prices.** Prices throughout the country have now stabilized, following the promulgation of a State Council circular last December 7 calling for price controls. Prices had been rising since early last year. The annual average retail prices for 1980 were up about 6 per cent over the previous year, of which the retail prices for non-staple foods, such as vegetables, jumped up 13.8 per cent.

Recent findings by the National Price Bureau indicate that commodity prices in state-owned stores and supply and marketing co-ops, which account for some 90 per cent of the nation's retail sales, have been brought under control. In the last half year, the number of commodities whose prices are negotiated have shrunk somewhat and their prices have ceased rising. Thus a stop has been put to the upward trend of prices and the hidden increases.

For instance, in the capital city of Beijing, order has been restored to the prices for 222 types of commodities which had risen above their list prices. Now control has once again been exerted to those types of commodities which



were sold at negotiated prices rather than at list prices or which were commanding higher negotiated prices than had been established.

The implementation of the State Council circular on pricing and the adoption of effective measures by various governmental organizations have improved the situation throughout the country. These measures include widespread investigation of prices, the establishment by the central authorities of 14 groups to help investigate and check prices at different places, and the criticism of those units and individuals who have violated the pricing policy. Serious infringements have been dealt with by economic or legal means.

**Impact of Price Hikes on the People's Livelihood.** It is immediately clear from the price index set by the State Statistical Bureau that retail list prices for basic necessities such as grain, cotton, edible oil, coal and sugar in the state-owned stores have remained unchanged. But there are a fairly large number of commodities with negotiated prices and these prices are relatively high. In addition, there are serious incidences of hidden price rises and indiscriminate charges. For instance, non-staple foods with negotiated prices account for 20 per cent of the non-staple foods available in some cities. If the negotiated prices are 40 per cent higher than the list prices, the price level of non-staple foods will increase by about 8 per cent, greatly affecting people's living standards. Thus, it is hardly strange that people were quite upset about these price hikes.

The state list prices of some commodities have risen and some have dropped. Specifically the prices for those goods which are closely related to the people's livelihood and in high demand like non-staple foods (including vegetables) and daily necessities went up; the prices for some durable consumer goods like TV sets, refrigerators, and tape-recorders which are

### Pricing Structure

There are two types of prices in China: List and negotiated. The list price is a planned price set by the state. This system leads to public supervision of market prices as people can immediately spot an attempt to illegally jack up prices.

A negotiated price is one which is not fixed by the state, but rather negotiated between the buyer and seller. It is also referred to as the unplanned price. As it is affected by the law of value and the relations between supply and demand on the market, it can fluctuate. But only those goods which are deemed non-essential or secondary fall into this category. The proportion these prices are allowed to rise is controlled through the administration of the market and public supervision



high-grade products that only a small number of people can afford declined. In 1980, the State Council readjusted retail market prices, and price reductions amounted to 370 million yuan and price increases totalled 170 million yuan. The accounts thus showed a favourable balance of 200 million yuan in the whole year.

Though prices have risen, the living standards of the vast majority of people have continued to improve because of greater income.

In the cities, some 26.6 million people have found employment in the past four years. Most workers and staff members have had their wages increased and larger numbers have received bonuses. Thus, their incomes have kept ahead of rising costs.

Furthermore, even those families which have not received additional funds from bonuses, higher wages and new jobs enjoy secure lives. They have only been slightly affected by the price hikes because their rents are low, accounting for only 5 per cent of their total income, medical costs are minimal and covered by the state for workers and staff members, transportation costs are low (most commute to work by bike, bus or tram and receive a monthly traffic subsidy from the state) and the prices for many industrial products and staple foods such as grain, edible oil and sugar have been stable for 30 years. Take Beijing for example (see table):

Year	Rice (per kilo.)	Flour (per kilo.)	White Cloth (per metre)
1952	0.296 yuan	0.34 yuan	0.84 yuan
1980	0.304 yuan	0.37 yuan	0.84 yuan

It is quite evident that in the countryside where 80 per cent of China's population live, peasants have benefited from the price readjustment. In the past two years, peasant incomes increased by 25,800 million yuan as a result of the rise in the state's purchasing prices of agricultural and sideline products.

**What Measures Have Been Adopted to Ensure Basic Stability of Prices?** Maintaining price stability has been a consistent policy of our country since the founding of New China in 1949. This policy has for the most part been successful, with price increases having occurred in only a few years. These hikes were the

result of mistakes in our economic work — a situation which can be righted by readjusting our policies and improving our work.

Proceeding along the lines of developing the national economy and seeking stability and unity, the Chinese Government is confident that prices can be stabilized. A series of measures have been adopted for this purpose.

Market prices have been strictly controlled and supervised since the State Council issued its circular last December. But these were only administrative measures, and could only solve the problem temporarily, not permanently. Hence, the government decided to effect a major readjustment of the national economy, calling for a balanced budget this year, an elimination of the deficit and a halt to the issuance of currency to cope with financial problems. These policy decisions are conducive to the stability of prices. The vigorous development of light industrial and textile products will facilitate the withdrawal of currency from circulation and stabilize prices. Such measures have already had a considerable effect. □

## CAMEL XIANGZI

by Lao She

*Camel Xiangzi* is a classic novel of modern China written by the famous author, Lao She, during the 1930s.

The story focuses on the life of an honest and industrious rickshaw boy, Xiangzi, who suffers the cruel oppression common to the poor in "old" Beijing. Being young, strong and self-confident, Xiangzi wants nothing more than to save enough money to buy a rickshaw of his own to pull, rather than be bullied by those who own and rent rickshaws. He begins to build a decent life for himself when the woman he marries helps him buy a rickshaw. But his life takes a tragic turn when his wife dies, and he is forced to sell the rickshaw to pay off debts. Faced with nothing but personal misery and social corruption, Xiangzi is China's labouring class epitome of the disintegration of a human soul.

Lao She (1898-1966), the author of plays, short stories and novels, is perhaps best known for his vivid portrayal of characters, as well as his biting and lively use of language.

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# Newspapers In China

by Our Correspondent  
Zhou Zheng



In present-day China, newspapers occupy a most important position in the realm of mass media. What is the history and the present situation of Chinese newspapers? What are their features? What are the problems facing them? This special feature will deal with such questions.

## The Present Situation

**M**ORE than 70 million copies of 382 newspapers are now distributed in China. Thirty-six newspapers are national, the rest are local papers.

### Organs of the Party Committees

China's single largest and most important newspaper is *Renmin Ribao* (People's Daily).

Run by the Central Committee of the Chinese Communist Party, it distributes 5.3 million copies each day. The first of its eight pages (only four on Sunday) is devoted to important domestic and international news items and commentaries, the second page to economic news and articles, the third to internal political affairs, culture, education and social life, the fourth to national and international news, the fifth page to articles on theory, academic discussions, literature and art, and the sixth and seventh pages to international reports and commentaries. The eighth page is a literary supplement and the lower portions of the seventh and eighth pages are used for advertising.

This newspaper is printed in Beijing and 20 other cities — by transmitting a radio facsimile to 10 cities and by airmailing the matrixes to the other 10. In addition, the newspaper is also

printed in Xianggang (Hong-kong) and Tokyo.

Party committees in 29 provinces, municipalities (directly under the jurisdiction of the Central Government) and autonomous regions have their own organs. Serving as ties between the Party and the public, these newspapers propagate the Party's line, principles and policies and reflect the people's desires and demands.

### Other Newspapers

Newspapers directed at special audiences are *Gongren Ribao* (The Workers Daily), *Jiefangjun Bao* (The Liberation Army Daily), *Guangming Ribao* (The Brightness Daily, with intellectuals as the main audience), *Zhongguo Nongmin Bao* (The Chinese Peasants Paper), *Zhongguo Qingnian Bao* (The Chinese Youth News) and *Zhongguo Shaonian Bao* (Chinese Children's Paper).

Special interest newspapers include *Tiyu Bao* (Sports), *Jiankang Bao* (Health Journal), *Zhongguo Fazhi Bao* (China's Legal System), *Beijing Keji Bao* (Beijing Science and Technology), *Luyou Tongrun* (Tourism), *Renmin Youdian* (People's Post and Telecommunications), *Beijing Yinyue Bao* (Beijing Music) and



Newspapers are delivered to people's doorsteps



*Shichang* (Market). These papers mainly cover the developments, achievements, experiences and problems in their respective fields, but they have attained some general popularity beyond their special interest groups.

In addition, 8.47 million copies of *Cankao Xiaoxi* (Reference News) are distributed daily. It excerpts news, articles and commentaries from foreign news agencies and newspapers and its circulation is restricted.

### Relationship Between Newspapers and the Public

New China's newspapers have close ties with the general public. The importance of such a relationship was stressed by Chairman Mao Zedong in 1948, the year before the People's Republic was founded. In his *A Talk to the Editorial Staff of the "Shanxi-Suiyuan Daily,"* Chairman Mao stated: "We have always maintained that the revolution must rely on the masses of the people, on everybody's taking a hand, and have opposed relying merely on a few persons issuing orders. . . . With our newspapers, too, we must rely on everybody, on the masses of the people, on the whole Party to run them, not merely on a few persons working behind closed doors."

All the major newspapers in New China have inherited the fine tradition of relying on the masses, which came into being in the days of the liberated areas. One manifestation of these papers' close ties with the public is that they all have large "mass work departments" or "correspondence departments" to handle letters and to receive visitors. These departments answer their readers' questions themselves when possible or relay them to the appropriate parties. Some letters

of general interest are also selected for publication. *Renmin Ribao* and many other organs of the Party committees have letters columns.

In 1979 *Tianjin Ribao* (Tianjin Daily), for instance, published a reader's letter entitled: "If I Were a Deputy of the People." The letter criticized the poor locations of commercial outlets. It stated that there were very few, sometimes no, shops or restaurants near new apartment buildings, causing people to go a long distance to obtain daily necessities. The author of the

letter imagined how he might urge the government departments concerned to solve these problems if he were elected a deputy of the people. At six o'clock in the morning after the letter was published, a deputy director of the city's Commercial Bureau went to the area mentioned in the letter and observed the difficulties people had in getting their breakfast. As a result, the commercial department quickly adopted measures to increase the number of restaurants and shops selling daily necessities and improve their location. The newspaper later received many letters from

## Some Well-Known Newspapers

*Gongren Ribao* prints 1.81 million copies every day. It is specially devoted to trade union activities and workers' lives, but also covers major events at home and abroad. To serve the modernization drive, the newspaper has increased its coverage of the industrial economy and unfolded discussions on problems of interest to workers, such as how to increase the role of the congress of workers and staff members, how to establish a healthy mental outlook and how to improve techniques.

*Jiefangjun Bao*, which started in 1956, is a daily run specially for officers and men of the Chinese People's Liberation Army. It is available in every company.

*Guangming Ribao* is a daily which mainly reaches intellectuals. It has a circulation of 1.5 million. It devotes special attention to literature and art, science, history, economics and philosophy.

*Zhongguo Nongmin Bao*, which started last year, is the first national newspaper run specially for peasants and rural cadres since the founding of New China. Its content and layout are suited to peasants of varying educational levels.

*Zhongguo Qingnian Bao* is published four times a week and has a circulation of 3.06 million. Its informative and topical reports attract many readers among China's youth. In a discussion on the meaning of life last year, it received more than 70,000 letters and contributions, some of which were written by famous personages of the older generation who are concerned about young people.

*Zhongguo Shaonian Bao*, a weekly with a circulation of 7.26 million, has one of the largest readerships. Its illustrations and vivid language appeal to children, who refer to it as their good teacher and friend.

*Shichang*, which was started in 1979, is China's first coloured tabloid covering economic news. It is printed three times a month and has a circulation of one million.

A new English language newspaper, *China Daily*, will soon be available. It will be directed at foreign visitors, foreign residents and overseas readers who are interested in keeping up with Chinese developments on a daily basis.

readers in support of its having published the letter "If I Were a Deputy of the People."

Another example of how newspapers rely on the masses is the large number of stringers. Composed of both experts working in different trades and ordinary workers and peasants, they call or send in articles to the newspaper office about the important events in their localities or units. The office in turn informs the stringers about the types of stories it is interested in well in advance.

Take for instance *Dazhong Ribao* (Masses Daily), the

organ of the Party committee of Shandong Province. The newspaper has set up writing groups in all of the province's 13 prefectures (or cities) and 107 counties, and selected at least one stringer for those factories, government offices and schools with more than one thousand people. Now, there are 5,000 stringers scattered everywhere in the province, who send in an average of 15,000 letters and contributions every month, accounting for some 70 per cent of the published articles on local affairs. The stringers are paid for the pieces which get into print.

the principle of telling the truth and try hard to reflect the people's ideas and voice their demands. Readers are also willing to tell the newspapers their concerns and interests. *Renmin Ribao* receives 2,000 letters a day on an average. They deal with everything from the Party's principles and policies and the four modernization drive to the poor quality of transistors produced in a factory.

### Seeking Truth From Facts

In the last four years, the newspapers have restored and carried forward the fine tradition of seeking truth from facts, that is, using practice as the criterion for determining what is right and wrong, reflecting things as they stand, reporting both successes and failures, talking about the bright side as well as the dark side of society and telling the readers both the achievements and difficulties in socialist construction. For instance, we have accurately reported the problems of the readjustment of the national economy which was made necessary by the existence of "Leftist" thinking in economic construction, a lack of a clear aim in production, an over-accumulation of fund, an unduly large investment in capital construction and insufficient attention to light industry. In the reports, we tried to mobilize the people to do a good job in readjusting the national economy.

Employment is another problem of common concern which the newspapers have relatively fully covered. In the last four years, 28 million more people have found employment, a great achievement by any standard. However, there are still a large number of people waiting for jobs, a problem which the newspapers today do not balk at reporting.

## Mouthpiece of the People

— by Vice-President of the Beijing Society of Journalism

What is the relationship between the Party's newspapers and the people? Do these newspapers speak for the people? What is their role? With these questions in mind, "Beijing Review" correspondent interviewed An Gang, Vice-President of the Beijing Society of Journalism and Deputy Editor-in-Chief of "Renmin Ribao." Below are excerpts from his reply.

**I**N our country, the Party's newspapers are at once newspapers of the Communist Party and of the public. The Party has no other interests than those of China's 1,000 million people, and neither do the Party's newspapers. In the long period of revolution and construction, our newspapers have fostered a close relationship with the people. Although our papers still have shortcomings, they have won the confidence of the public.

### The People's Confidence

In his "Justification of the Correspondent From the Mosel," Karl Marx said that popular recognition was the breath of life of the press. Without it, the press hopelessly pined away.

this is borne out by the experience of *Renmin Ribao*.

In the disastrous decade from 1966 to 1976, the newspapers were in the hands of the counter-revolutionary Lin and Jiang cliques. To delude the public, the newspapers either published critiques and theoretical articles that served the cliques' attempts to seize supreme state power, or told about how "the situation was excellent, and getting better and better." They were forbidden to reflect the people's desires and sentiments. At that time, people did not trust the newspapers. In fact, they were reluctant to read them.

Now, things have changed. The newspapers are dedicated to



Discussions on difficulties in the newspapers are intended not to spread pessimism but to find solutions. In our coverage of the jobless young people, for instance, we introduced many new job opportunities, such as organizing young people to run restaurants, wineshops and carpenter shops. In another instance, when we reported our financial deficit, we stressed the government's determination to wipe it out and the measures adopted to do this quickly.

It takes courage for newspapers to report the truth. The system of responsibility with fixed output quotas for each household in agricultural production provides a case in point. The advantages of the system are well-known now. But two or three years ago, many people were sceptical and even opposed it, though the adoption of the system had scored a remarkable increase in those areas where the collective economy was backward because of poor management. They feared that it would lead to the restoration of capitalism. *Renmin Ribao* was the first paper to report positively about the system, describing how it had been implemented in some areas of Anhui, Sichuan and Inner Mongolia.

We met with resistance, but we did not retreat.

Of course, there are faults and errors in our work. But the Party Central Committee and the people always help us to promptly correct them.

### Standing in the Forefront Of the Movement

Marx pointed out in "Announcement of the Neue Rheinische Zeitung, Politisch-Ökonomische Revue": The greatest interest of a newspaper is "its daily intervention in the movement and speaking directly from the heart of the movement, its reflecting day-to-day history in all its amplitude, the continuous and impassioned interaction between the people and its daily press." This is exactly what our newspapers have been trying to do.

After the downfall of the gang of four, the Chinese were confronted with the problem of how to liberate themselves from their longstanding ideological shackles. As a result of the modern superstitions created by the gang, the thinking of many people had become rigidified. In this connection, *Guangming Ribao* and *Renmin Ribao* published an article in 1978 entitled "Practice Is the Only Criterion

crucial to emancipating our minds, an important prerequisite for the realization of the four modernizations. The Party Central Committee paid great attention to and highly praised that debate, which therefore achieved significant results.

That debate in a measure has paved the way in the current readjustment of the national economy for criticizing the "Leftist" mistakes which had prevailed for many years and proceeding with economic work in the light of the realities, possibilities and practical results.

### Democratic Platform

A major task of the newspapers is to promote socialist democracy and provide people with a platform for discussing various problems freely while leading discussions in a positive direction.

There are different opinions as to how to develop our big and populous country which is now confronted with many problems. Thus the newspapers have launched debates on problems of common concern. Should an independent industrial system be built in every province? Should the national capital be developed into a cultural city or into an industrial city? And how can a diverse economy be fostered in the countryside? From discussions on these and other questions, the newspapers collected many useful suggestions and forwarded them to the departments concerned so as to help them work out the appropriate policies.

The newspapers also provide coverage of the democratic discussions going on throughout the country, from the Great Hall of the People in Beijing — where the National People's Congress, the highest organ of



Upper: Under the "gang of four," few people believed what was said in the newspapers.

Lower: Today everyone likes to read them.

Cartoon by Hua Junwu

for Testing Truth" and followed it up with a great debate on why this was so. The newspapers argued that all the past principles, policies, theories and slogans had to be measured by practice. We would continue to adhere to what was proved right by practice and to correct what was proved wrong. That debate was

power, meets — to the remote villages.

Portions of important speeches are also carried in the papers. Last year when the Third Session of the Fifth National People's Congress was held, *Renmin Ribao* published more than 200 speeches by the deputies, some criticizing the bureaucracy and errors in the government's work and some putting forward ideas and suggestions.

*Zhongguo Qingnian Bao* in a recent issue front-paged a news story entitled "Peasants Complain: Cultural Life Is Only in the Cities." It tells of a forum on literature and art attended by commune members, rural cadres and rural teachers in Changping County on the outskirts of Beijing. Participants were critical that the number of literary and art works reflecting the peasants' real life was too small. The newspaper quoted a young commune member as saying: "Performing troupes do not come to the countryside. There are very few works on rural themes. The 800 million peasants are being ignored and cultural life is only in the cities." Some participants emphasized that there are more and more young people with a middle school education in the countryside, and a greater and greater demand for cultural life. They called for more TV programmes, films, plays, novels and music productions which have themes based on rural life.

### Praises and Criticisms

In our efforts to modernize, many people have made progress in their studies and work. The newspapers have frequently carried laudatory articles about the outstanding people who have emerged from various walks of life. *Renmin Ribao* opened up a column called "Man

## A Column in "Beijing Wanbao"

One morning last May, Mr. Hoshino, a Japanese *Yomiuri Shimbun* correspondent, went to the office of *Beijing Wanbao* (Beijing Evening News) and with a serious expression on his face handed an article to an editor. The following day the article appeared in the column "Across the Ancient City" describing how his car was damaged at night for lack of a sign warning rocks piled in the street. The article prompted Beijing's municipal construction bureau to immediately send someone to investigate the matter. Deciding that Mr. Hoshino was in the right, the bureau paid for the damage. That very afternoon Mr. Hoshino phoned the office of *Beijing Wanbao*, expressing his appreciation for the influential role its column had played.

"Across the Ancient City" is a small column appearing every day. It covers topics of concern to ordinary citizens, such as services in the stores, the quality of products, social attitudes and sanitation. It is highly admired for the typical examples it selects. Its peppery and humorous tone, its concise and vivid language, its interesting layout and its distinct style. A reader said: "The first thing I read when I get the paper is 'Across the Ancient City.' It takes up both the good and bad points of our society. It's an honest and reliable spokesman."

One day a reader's letter was published in "Across the Ancient City," criticizing a policeman on the outskirts of Beijing who took some cucumbers from a peasant's truck while on duty. After reading the letter, the Beijing public security bureau looked into the matter. It not only made the policeman apologize to the production brigade affected and pay for the cucumbers, but also conducted an educational campaign among the entire Beijing police force on the need to observe discipline.

The column is quite popular mainly because it helps readers solve longstanding problems. On March 7 this year, the column carried a piece of news entitled: "Blocked Drains Turn a Street Into a Sewer." It reported that a street in Beijing was flooded with sewage water because the sewer pipe there had been blocked for a whole week. On learning the news, leaders of the department concerned immediately sent workers to dredge the pipe, and criticized themselves for their bureaucratic work style. Now many Beijing residents are apt to say: "Write a letter to 'Across the Ancient City,'" whenever they see some unhealthy social tendencies or meet with some difficult problems. *Beijing Wanbao* receives an average of 200 letters a day, some published in the paper after the facts are checked and some transferred to the departments concerned. When a problem raised in a letter is solved, the paper writes a reply to the reader.

This column's popularity rests on the fact that it voices the demands of the public and safeguards its interests.

— Lin Weimin

of Action" to report on the advanced deeds of such people as a way of encouraging others. Other newspapers have followed suit with such columns as "In Praise of Public Servants" and "New Styles of Conduct," which report on those who perform deeds in the spirit of serving the people and who manifest high socialist consciousness.

These people include advanced workers who have fulfilled their production tasks ahead of schedule for several years in a row, factory directors who have organized workers to overcome backward practices in their factories in a short period of time, scientists who have made significant contributions, and veteran cadres who participated in the Long March and have continued



to work hard and live simply.

Another important task of the newspapers is to unfold criticism. Last summer's reportage on the capsizing of the *Bohai* No. 2 oil rig is a case in point. A few leaders in the related departments ordered the workers to operate an imported rig in violation of safety regulations. This caused the deaths of more than 70 people. Disclosing the accident in the newspapers became an effective way of letting people know the truth, opposing

bureaucracy and supervising the leaders. As a result, Song Zhenming resigned from his post as Minister of the Petroleum Industry, and his self-criticism was published in the press.

In short, the Party's newspapers function as a mouthpiece of the people, and their duty is to link the Party's principles and policies with the people's desires and to lead the people in marching towards a still brighter future.

served the purposes of imperialist aggression.

The Chinese bourgeoisie began publishing newspapers in the 1860s. The first publisher was Wang Tao, who was also the first newspaper political commentator in Chinese history. In 1874 he edited *The Xunhuan Daily*, a reformist paper in Xianggang (Hongkong). He was followed by Kang Youwei and Liang Qichao. In launching the Reform Movement of 1898, they started a number of newspapers abroad to disseminate their views. This broke through the feudal rulers' restrictions on freedom of speech, and the reformist ideas spread by these papers had a strong influence on their readers. After the Reform Movement was crushed, Kang and Liang continued running newspapers abroad advocating a constitutional monarchy.

### Newspapers Run by Bourgeois Revolutionaries

The bourgeois revolutionaries headed by Dr. Sun Yat-sen placed great importance on newspaper publicity. *Zhongguo Ribao* (in Xianggang), *Su Bao* and *Minli Bao* (both in Shanghai) as well as other newspapers run by them in Tokyo and Beijing exposed the crimes of the Qing court and disseminated the ideas of the democratic revolution. The heated debates which they carried on with reformist newspapers gave an impetus to the development of the revolutionary forces at that time.

The Revolution of 1911 led to a vigorous expansion in newspaper publishing. In 1912 there were 495 newspapers and magazines in China, four times the number in 1901. The wrecking activities of the Northern Warlords, however, soon brought on their rapid decline.

## For Your Reference

# A Brief History of Chinese Newspapers

by Fang Hanqi

**G**OVERNMENT bulletins running into dozens of sheets published during the Kaiyuan Period (713-741) of the reign of Emperor Xuan Zong of the Tang Dynasty were discovered in Hubei Province towards the end of the 9th century by a feudal intellectual called Sun Qiao. An article which he wrote entitled "On Reading Bulletins Published in the Kaiyuan Period" is our earliest record of Chinese newspapers.

### Early Chinese Newspapers

The earliest newspapers were mainly government bulletins, usually called *Di Bao* (prepared at the capital's residence of high officials) or *Jing Bao* (published in the capital). They carried mainly imperial decrees and official documents.

At the end of the Northern Song Dynasty (early 12th century), at its capital Kaifeng, there appeared a new type of

paper which was privately run and small in size, similar to today's tabloid. Many of them were put out by wood block printing, and these were the earliest printed newspapers in China.

It was not until the end of the Ming Dynasty that privately owned newspaper offices were allowed to publish these tabloids openly. They were generally called *Jing Bao*, and besides relaying what was on the government bulletins, they also reported on local happenings and social events. For instance, a tabloid of that time carried the obituary of the Italian missionary Matteo Ricci who had died in Beijing, and news of a local treasury robbery and an explosion in a store for gunpowder.

### Modern Newspapers in China

In the early 19th century, foreign missionaries, merchants and diplomats began running newspapers in China. This marked the appearance of the modern newspaper here. All their publications, however,

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## Papers in the Early Period of The New-Democratic Revolution

At the time when the Northern Warlords held sway and Sun Yat-sen and other bourgeois revolutionaries were finding it hard going, some of the radical revolutionary democrats represented by Chen Duxiu, Li Dazhao and Lu Xun came out boldly to run newspapers. They set up *Xin Qingnian* (New Youth), published first in Shanghai in 1915, and then *Meizhou Pinglun* (Weekly Review) in Beijing in 1918. With these as their weapons, holding aloft the banner of democracy and science, they launched fierce attacks on feudal dogmas of all kinds and pushed forward the new cultural movement.

After the May 4th Movement of 1919, some revolutionaries who already had some preliminary knowledge of Marxism began publishing newspapers and magazines. The most influential among them were *Xiangjiang Pinglun* (Xiangjiang Review) edited by Mao Zedong in Changsha and *Tianjin Xuesheng Lianhehui Bao* (Tianjin Students Federation Paper) edited by Zhou Enlai in Tianjin. Together with *Xin Qingnian* and *Meizhou Pinglun* edited by Chen Duxiu and Li Dazhao, these publications sang the praises of the Great October Revolution and made an outstanding contribution to the dissemination of Marxist ideas in China.

In the year after the founding of the Chinese Communist Party (July 1921), a weekly called *Xiangdao* (Guide), the first organ of the Central Committee of the Chinese Communist Party, was started in Shanghai. Altogether 201 issues came out. It devoted its pages mainly to mounting a struggle against imperialism and feudalism and establishing the people's demo-

cratic united front. This paper received an enthusiastic response and was regarded as "the saviour of the 400 million Chinese people." At the same time, the Party also started *Qianfeng* (Vanguard), *Xinqingnian Jikan* (New Youth Quarterly) and *Rexue Ribao* (Rexue Daily) as its organs. The last one was edited by Qu Qiubai. These publications played a big role in promoting and guiding the anti-imperialist, patriotic movement of May 30, 1925.

## Kuomintang Newspapers

In April 1927, the Kuomintang reactionaries betrayed the revolution. In the following 22 years, they published nearly 3,000 newspapers and magazines in their controlled areas. The most influential were *Minguo Ribao* (started in 1916), *Zhongyang Ribao* (1927) and *Saodang Bao* (1932). These three official newspapers which had local editions in a dozen provinces and cities went in for massive anti-Communist, anti-popular propaganda through distortion and rumourmongering. Besides, the Kuomintang reactionaries bought over some newspapers by providing subsidies.

## Newspapers Run by the Chinese Communist Party

To disseminate its programmes, principles and policies at different stages of the revolution, the Party successively published almost a thousand newspapers and magazines as its organs in various Soviet areas, in the anti-Japanese democratic base areas and in the liberated areas. Important among them were *Hongse Zhonghua* (Red China) and *Douzheng* (Struggle) published in the Central Soviet Area, *Xin Zhonghua Bao* (New China) and *Jiefang Ribao* (Liberation Daily) published in the Shaanxi-Gansu-Ningxia Border Region. Comrade Mao Zedong

often gave personal guidance to the staff of *Jiefang Ribao*, wrote important editorials and worked at improving the articles.

To maintain links with the masses and resist counter-revolutionary propaganda, the Party published a number of newspapers and magazines in the areas under Kuomintang control. Some of them were distributed openly, some underground. Famous among them was *Xinhua Ribao* (New China Daily) which was started in Chongqing on January 11, 1938 during the second period of co-operation between the Kuomintang and the Chinese Communist Party. After 9 years and 48 days of publication, it was sealed up by the Kuomintang on February 28, 1947. This was the first organ of the Chinese Communist Party openly circulated in the Kuomintang areas during the War of Resistance Against Japan and the War of Liberation.

The paper explained the Party's stand to the people in the Kuomintang areas, and promoted the anti-Japanese national united front led by the Party and the struggle against civil war and for democracy, thereby serving as a guiding light for the people in Kuomintang controlled areas. This newspaper was under the direct leadership of Zhou Enlai, representative of the C.P.C. Central Committee residing in the wartime capital of the Kuomintang and Secretary of the South China Bureau of the Party Central Committee. He often called editors' meetings to discuss their work, as well as personally contributed many editorials and commentaries.

The founding of the People's Republic of China on October 1, 1949 marked the beginning of a new stage in China's newspaper publication. □



**Peking Opera as a European Sees It (in English and German)**

*By Marie-Luise Latsch;*

*Published by New World Press;*

*Distributed by Guoji Shudian  
(China Publications Centre);*

*Renminbi: 0.65 yuan.*

**Peking Opera and Mei Lanfang: A Guide to China's Traditional Theatre and the Art of Its Great Master (in English)**

*By Wu Zuguang, Huang Zuolin  
and Mei Shaowu;*

*With Selections From Mei Lanfang's Own Writings;*

*Published by New World Press;*

*Distributed by Guoji Shudian  
(China Publications Centre);*

*Renminbi: 2.90 yuan hardcover,  
1.75 yuan paperback.*

What is sung and recited in gaudy dazzling period robes that requires great acrobatic and pantomime skills besides terrific vocal cords? Here's a clue: your ears will be jarred by the sounds, and you'll feel totally confounded by what is going on. But you'll be fascinated.

The answer has to be Peking (Beijing) opera. It overloads the senses of everyone experiencing

it for the first time, Chinese and foreigners alike. For young Chinese, brought up in a society already markedly different from that which produced this magnificent theatrical tradition, the task of understanding all this richness is difficult enough. But for foreigners, even those who know standard Beijing dialect, Peking opera is a forbidding yet enticing world of magic. They strain their ears to listen to archaic Chinese. Their heads reel trying to decipher historical figures, acting conventions and theatrical symbolism. Where can foreigners turn for help?

At last, we have two books in English to help the beginner understand this enchanting traditional theatre of China. The appearance of these books is good news not only for those who manage to see Peking opera shows in their home country or in China but also for those with a more general interest in the performing arts.

Both *Peking Opera as a European Sees It* and *Peking Opera and Mei Lanfang* assume the reader has little or no understanding of Peking opera.

Both books are well illustrated, and both use Western theatre as a bridge between the two cultures, on the assumption that an understanding of one kind of theatre should facilitate an understanding of the other.

What exactly do we mean by "Peking opera"? Every region has its own popular opera, characterized by its distinct music and use of local dialect. Operas were first performed outside in marketplaces and streets, on festive occasions, wherever crowds gathered. Outside performances necessitated the loud playing of music, brightly coloured costumes, and drama conventions which catch the attention of the perspective audience. And performers didn't just sing arias, as in Western opera. They also recited poetry, mimed and did martial arts. Peking opera began as a local opera and then absorbed music and language from elsewhere. Marie-Luise Latsch writes that "Peking opera was the product of the merging in Beijing (Peking) of Anhui and Hubei (Hupeh) opera styles in the late 18th and 19th centuries." What we see on stage today is therefore the product of many centuries of local opera development.

*Peking Opera as a European Sees It* provides an amateur's view of Peking opera. The author provides interesting comments on the history, techniques and nature of the art and makes candid remarks about her initial reaction to its highly conventionalized presentation. She also compares and contrasts Peking opera and the closest European equivalents. Her approach is refreshing for two reasons: first, because the book is effortless to read, and second, because the author's contagious enthusiasm





is not bound by the rigours of strict academic analysis. It would have helped our understanding, however, if the publishers had told us more about the author and her experiences with Peking opera.

Knowledge about the authors is not a problem for the much longer book, *Peking Opera and Mei Lanfang*. We are told that "Wu Zuguang is a well-known playwright and dramatic [sic] critic." And that "Huang Zuolin is a noted stage and film director and vice-president of the Chinese Dramatists' Association." The reader can thus be confident this book is one of some substance. After a few opening remarks about the techniques of Peking opera Wu gives a personal account of his friendship with Mei Lanfang, a valuable testimony to Mei's hard work. Wu tells of Mei's "miserable" childhood, his "Peking opera family," and his patriotism. The reader is aware of Wu's professional respect for Mei, too. He praises his "grueling practice and continued research."

Huang Zuolin's piece contrasts the dramatic theories of three 20th century giants of the theatre: Bertolt Brecht, German poet, playwright and theatrical reformer who believed that an audience should not identify with characters portrayed on stage; Konstantin Stanislavsky, Russian actor and director who advocated the audience's total emotional identification with characters; and Mei Lanfang who, as a representative of China's traditional theatre, stood for unique expression which was neither entirely realistic nor entirely symbolic. Huang lays out the conditions set by Brecht and Stanislavsky for the survival of the theatre, and notes Mei's influence on them. This is the most "serious" treatment



of Mei, dealing as it does with Western and Chinese drama theories.

The highlight of the whole book, however, is Mei Lanfang's own essay, "Reflections on My Stage Life." There's nothing like an artist explaining himself in his own words. Mei lucidly presents his views on acting in Peking opera. His remarks are casual yet well measured: "The first thing to do is to forget that you are acting and make yourself one with the part. Only then can you depict those feelings profoundly and meticulously." Stanislavsky would have agreed with this. But Mei also writes that "an indiscriminate adherence to nature is a very bad tendency." Brecht would have been happy to hear this remark. Chinese traditional theatre is plainly unique. If only more selections of Mei's writings had been included in this book, perhaps the reader might have read Mei's reactions to Stanislavsky and Brecht.

The last article was written by Mei's son, Mei Shaowu, "a translator of Western literature and a staff member of the National Beijing Library." Mei Shaowu writes as loving son,

admirer and biographer of his father. Nowhere is Mei Lanfang's illustrious career depicted as strongly even emotionally as in this piece by his son.

Of the two books, *Peking Opera and Mei Lanfang* is most informative. It also features a brief guide to the technical production of Peking opera and synopses for 25 of the better known opera pieces. *Peking Operas as a European Sees It* is not intended to be scholarly. The former is written by professionals. Yet, it too falls short of being an academic treatment. There are no footnotes to quotations and sources aren't always credited. A bibliography would also have helped those who wish to learn more about Peking opera or Mei.

For foreign fans of the theatre, interest in and appreciation of Peking opera just begins with *Peking Opera as a European Sees It* and *Peking Opera and Mei Lanfang*. They're good introductions to Peking opera for Western audiences. The smaller book is easy reading for everyone and the other is recommended for those who would like to learn more about traditional Chinese theatre. Once you get used to the appearance and sound of Peking opera, nothing will keep you away from the theatre again.

—Liang Yueyin







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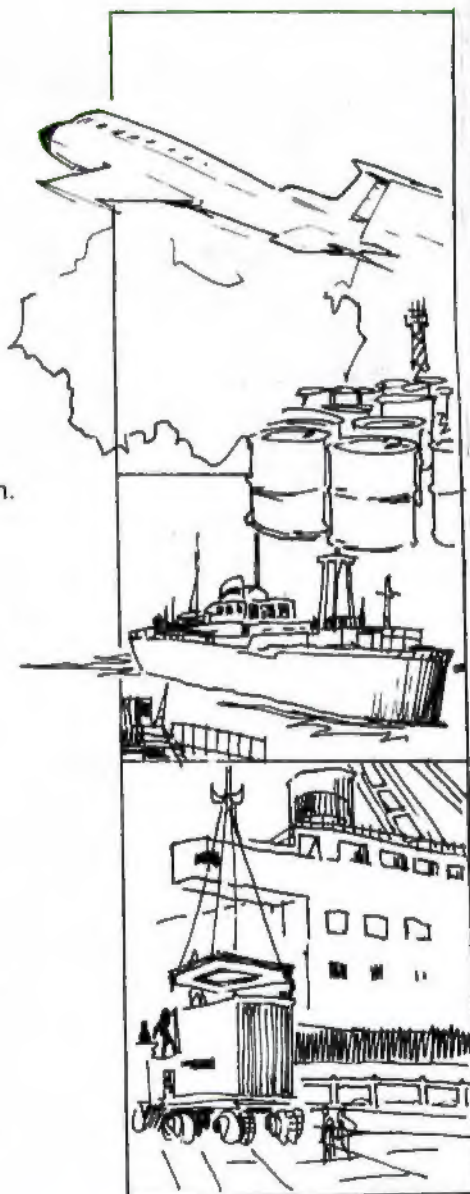
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